# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:405
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
PROMOTION OF INDIAN CULTURE HERITAGE AND LANGUAGES ABROAD
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any plan to promote Indian Culture and Heritage Abroad for the benefit of non- resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details of such plan; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote Indian languages abroad?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b): According to the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, a high level Committee on the Indian Diaspora has been setup by that Ministry to study inter alia the role of Culture and Education in strengthening ties between India and the Diaspora. The Committee has requested the concerned Ministries to constitute expert groups to recommend ways and means for deepening the cultural and educational linkages between India and its Diaspora.

Further, several of the Cultural Centres of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have been set up in countries having sizeable populations of Non-Resident Indians and people of Indian origin such as Trinidad & Tobago, Mauritius, Guyana, Suriname, UK, Sri Lanka, etc. The activities of these centers include training in Indian music/dance/Indian Languages/Yoga etc. Many persons of Indian origin have been provided scholarships under the various scholarship schemes of the Council to study Indian Arts and Culture in Indian Universities/Institutions.

(c): The Government of India runs correspondence courses and on- line language learning programmes that are meant for the benefit of both Indians as well as foreigners and NRIs. Financial assistance is provided for the publication of Indian language periodicals that are regularly sent to our missions abroad for information and publicity. Some Bilingual trilingual dictionaries have been prepared and more are being published. Intensive Indian language long-term courses are being conducted for foreigners in Kendriya Hindi Sansthan and Central Institute of Indian Languages. International Sanskrit conferences are held in India and abroad. The last International conference on Sanskrit was held in April 2001 in New Delhi. Subsequently, in May 2001, Sanskrit Conference was held at Bangkok in which large number of delegates attended from India and other parts of the World.

The ICCR maintains chairs of Indian studies abroad and has deputed Professors to teach Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Modern Indian History and Indian Civilization in Hungary, Mauritius, Russia, South Korea, Poland, Trinidad and Tobago, China, Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Thailand, France, Kyrghystan, Suriname and Uzbekistan.